



Kennel Connection

See Page 3 For Adoptable Pets Available Now!

Vol. 4 Issue 1

Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Spring 2018

By Charlie, with Carl Stottlemeyer

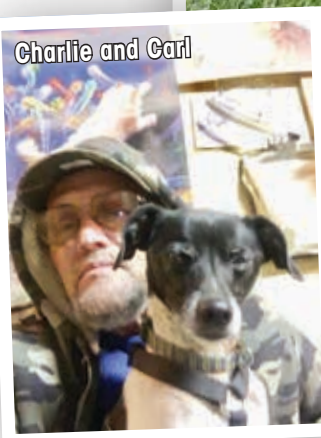
Charlie here. While on one of our long walks, I had a talk with my dad Carl about how he came to find me and how my life turned around. He told me that he hadn't been to the shelter for a few years because he feared he would come home with all the new friends they would allow him to take. He had been keeping an eye on the *Frederick News-Post* "Pets Page" though. And then one day, he heard on the radio about a "clear the shelter" event. He remembered seeing my picture in the paper—I was having a hard time finding the right family, they said—and decided it was time to visit the shelter.

When Carl arrived, he asked, "Is Charlie still here?" People sprang into action! We met in the big kennel out back. Right away I liked him, so I tried hard to make a good impression. I brought him a

A Conversation with Charlie



Charlie



Charlie and Carl

ball and he took it and tossed it for me to fetch. We played for 15 or 20 minutes. Then I jumped into his lap. I just knew he was the one!

But all too soon our meeting was over and I was escorted back to my kennel. I watched him walk away. I wondered, *did I do a good job? Did I impress him?*

A few days went by and I

figured he didn't want me. But what I didn't know was, Carl had gone back to the office that first day and asked to adopt me right away. Even after he looked at my paperwork and saw my record of misbehavior during my stay at the shelter: one woman had taken my ball away and I had nipped her fingers by mistake; one guy kept sticking me with needles and medicine and, ok, to be honest, that freaked me out so I tried to defend myself; a few people walked by my kennel and I was so desperate to get their

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Pancake 16 mos. old

Sharing is Caring: Pancake's Story

By Sharon Malecki

Discovery

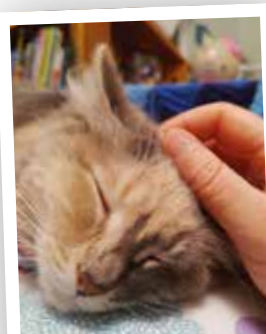
Last summer, my sister shared with me a Facebook post from Frederick Friends of Our County Animal Shelter. There was an adorable torti kitten, named Pancake, available for adoption. I had been thinking about adopting for a while but was hesitant because I was still feeling sad from losing my two kitties that had been with me for 20 years.

Well, I couldn't resist that cute face and cute name. So the next day, I reached out to express my interest. I learned that Pancake was a very shy girl and that "she is very sweet and loving ... but has a short 'petting window.'" She would need a

patient person who would give her the space and time to come out of her shell.

Meeting

A few days later, I visited Pancake at her foster mom's house. She was shy at first but social enough to meet me, which was enough to show me that she had a personality very similar to that of my dearly departed Georgia-Peach (also adopted from Frederick County Animal Control in 1996!). I learned that the shelter named her Pancake because she would always squish herself low in her cage and try to hide whenever people came near her cage. Well, luckily, she didn't try to hide from me and let me feed her treats and give her rubs! I decide



Pancake in foster care

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Director's Letter: *Fancy and Frustration*

By Linda Shea

Animals running at-large generate volumes of communication—over social media and in the form of phone calls to Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC)—regardless of species. Felines generate just as much discussion as canines when they are outside. However, concerns about dogs are presented in a more forthright manner, regardless of whether there is a worry for human safety or that of the dog. In contrast, discussions about outdoor cats are typically presented as a complaint, such as an individual having too many cats, the discord with wildlife, the mere nuisance of damage to flower beds, or concerns over possible disease transmission. And, for cats, more so than for dogs, lasting solutions to real problems and concerns are rarely proposed or desired.

The best solution to any animal-related problem, regardless of subject matter, is communication. Communication among neighbors should be viewed as a first go-to, rather than a last resort. Speculation or incorrect information about one's neighbors is often accompanied by a lack of willingness to talk.

FCAC is Frederick County's authority in humane law enforcement and oversees the county's only animal shelter. Our first steps in diffusing contentious situations is to discern facts and educate pet owners and neighbors as applicable. Perhaps providing some candid discussion and facts here will facilitate future conversations and demonstrate why conversation among neighbors can be a matter of life and death.

Last year, FCAC took in 2,234 cats and kittens. Of those, 107 fell in the category of owner-requested euthanasia, a service we provide to owners with financial need. The balance of felines brought to the shelter were an almost 50:50 distribution between owned and stray. In addition to the 107 owner-requested euthanasias, an additional 1,015 felines were humanely euthanized for a variety of reasons, including issues with health, temperament, and/or behavior that disqualified them from our adoption floor or rescue placement. For many of those 1,015 felines, a respectful conversation among neighbors could have resulted in a more positive outcome for the cats and a more productive understanding among the humans involved.

Adult felines have the lowest live-release rate (i.e., they are the animals most likely to be euthanized) in most animal shelters. Oftentimes, adult cats are uncomfortable with the housing accommodations in the shelter. Small, stainless steel cages surrounded by dozens of other felines, with canine vocals in the distant background, can be unsettling even for the most socialized cat. Stress can severely reduce appetite, cause diarrhea, and begin a vicious cycle of unresolvable dehydration. Stress can also

reduce the normal level of resistance to disease and result in illness. Even the best antibiotics and palliative care cannot always cure illness caused by stress. Cats that are fractious are not able to receive proper medical care, as they pose a risk to staff who try to restrain them for treatment.

If you notice a neighbor with an abundance of felines, offer our information on low-cost (or even free!) spay/neuter programs. If you have a neighbor whose cat is frequenting your flower beds, implement humane deterrents in your yard and ask the cat's owner or caretaker to help solve the problem. There is nothing we can offer to sick, unhandleable cats in our shelter. However, a conversation among neighbors to resolve or manage a problem can mean everything to those cats and the people who care for them.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

Keeping the Peace

By Bette Stallman Brown

Do you feed and care for outdoor cats? Or do you have a neighbor who is feeding the very cats that are driving you crazy? Want to find a resolution that will satisfy both of you?

Try talking to your neighbor. Keep in mind that this conflict, like so many others, is about a difference in perspective. It's not that you have the facts right and your neighbor does not. It's not that your concerns are legitimate and your neighbor is just being emotional. It's perfectly reasonable and ethical to provide care for domesticated animals that are living in a feral state. It's also perfectly understandable to get upset over repeatedly coming face to face with cat poo when you're weeding the flower beds. Give talking a chance.

Start with a peace offering: if you're the neighbor who's not so into the cats, bring their caretaker a bag of cat food or offer to help spay and neuter the cats; if you're the kitty caretaker, start the conversation with an offer to clean up cat poo from her garden or to pur-

chase a feral cat deterrent to keep them out of her yard.

Try to identify the actual cause of the conflict so you can find a solution. Some ideas to consider:

A trip to the shelter may not be the answer. Sure, you could try to round up all the cats you see and ship them off to the shelter. But this probably will not end well for the cats. It may be the most humane solution for cats who are seriously ill or injured, but for healthy cats, probably not. And removing the cats simply opens up a territory that is likely to be quickly filled by more cats. You'll be caught in a never-ending cycle of trapping, with euthanasia the result for most kittens.

Trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM). If the cats have a caretaker who's willing to ensure that they are spayed/neutered and kept up to date on vaccinations, TNRM can be a humane solution for cats who are healthy but not friendly enough to live as pets. In addition to preventing unwanted litters of kittens, it reduces or

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Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

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frederickcountymd.gov/15/Animal-Control

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Our Mission: To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals in Frederick County by enforcing all state, county, and city ordinances to the fullest extent possible. We will shelter homeless animals and attempt to place them in safe and loving home environments. We will educate the public on all animal issues to foster a more aware and caring community.

HOMES WANTED

View all of our adoptable pets on Petfinder
(www.frederick.petfinder.com) or Petango (www.petango.com/fcac).
Or stop by for a visit—you never know, you might just find true love!



Gramma Tala

Looking for a loving and faithful companion? That's Gramma Tala! This sweet girl arrived as a stray, with the appearance of a dog who has never known comfort. She enjoys a brisk walk around town and is an aficionado of soft beds, but Tala lives for your gentle touch and kind words.



Little One

A great listener who holds up her end of the conversation, Little One would make the perfect addition to a quiet home. She'd love to be the queen of her palace, spoiled to the fullest extent allowable by law.



Lou

Lou's his name and exploring is his game! This laid back guy loves affection but also values his independence. He can't wait to explore his forever home, secure the perimeter, then come back to your side for head scratches and love.



Franky & Chase

Franky is confident, a social butterfly. Chase is a little timid; he wants reassurance that he's safe. These two best buddies don't ask for much—only that they be allowed to remain together forever.

CHARLIE

Cont'd from page 1

attention that I barked and barked ... I guess I scared them.

But then Carl came back. I was so happy to see him that I ran and jumped into his lap! After a few minutes, out the door we went!

We got back to his place, and it had a long lane with trees and other dogs and ... just ... I don't know how to describe it—happiness. Carl introduced me to my new family members one by one and then we all took a nap. It took a little while for me to find my place in the pack and to figure out how to get along with all the other dogs, but with Carl's help, we've worked it



out and life is so good! I have a run in the back along with the other dogs and I'm having the time of my life!

One thing I can tell you—I won't be coming back to the shelter. I appreciate the help they gave me along the way, but I am way too happy here with my family!

PEACE

Cont'd from page 2

eliminates fighting, spraying urine, yowling, and roaming. When new, unaltered cats come in, you might have the occasional litter, but quite often those kittens can be captured young enough to socialize and become adoptable. The "M" of TNRM is important though—someone must be watching out for the cats, not only feeding them but ensuring that they're healthy and have shelter from extreme weather. (For help, see Tip Me Frederick in the Sources, below.)

Keep feeding areas clean. Feed only during daytime and put out only enough food that the cats will finish in one meal. Leaving food out at night will attract wild animals that may fight with the cats, injuring them and potentially transmitting diseases such as rabies. Make sure feeding areas are far from the properties of people who don't appreciate the cats' presence.

Provide litter box areas. If cats are using neighbors' gardens as litter boxes, create an area with sand or peat moss that cats can use as a litter box—and clean it regularly!

Keep cats away, humanely. This video demonstrates the use of humane deterrents, such as motion-activated sprinklers, to help repel cats from yards and gardens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFZ1NTXsac>. If cats are hanging out under porches or decks, block off access to those areas, leaving only a one-way door through which they can leave (*after first ensuring that no unweaned kittens are inside*). Here's one approach: <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/how-to/how-to-animal-proof-porch>. For a small opening, you may be able to simply fold hardware cloth into an outward-facing "L" shape and staple it over the opening, allowing the cats to leave but not to reenter. Place a cat shelter where the cats are allowed so they don't just move in under another neighbor's porch. DIY cat shelter instructions are here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp-W69fNzjc>.

Sources and More Information

Best Friends. Solutions to Cat-Related Issues. <https://bestfriends.org/resources/feral-cats-and-tnr/solutions-cat-related-issues>

San Francisco SPCA. Handling Conflicts with Neighbors. https://www.sfsPCA.org/sites/default/files/documents/cc_conflicts-neighbors_final_0.pdf

Tip Me Frederick. www.tipmefrederick.org

Good luck and peace out!

Please Don't Litter

During fiscal year 2017, Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) took in 3,942 animals, including 930 adult dogs, 188 puppies, 1,220 cats, and 1,014 kittens. Despite our best efforts to find a happily ever after for each animal, we ultimately had to euthanize 121 dogs and puppies and 1,015 cats and kittens due to poor health or temperament.

Though you may feel that just one litter didn't contribute to the numbers above, think about it. Are you certain that the families who took home your kittens had them spayed or neutered, or are those cats now having unwanted kittens of their own? Are you sure that the homes you found for your puppies were forever homes? Or have some of them ended up in an animal shelter, or worse?

As responsible pet owners, we can make a difference. We can save lives. Spay or neuter.

Species	Organization	Program Description	More Information
Cats	Frederick County Animal Control	PurrFix program: Frederick County residents with financial need living in the program's target areas are eligible to receive a voucher for free spay/neuter of pet cats/kittens at participating vet clinics	For more info, stop by FCAC or call 301-600-1546 Location: 1832 Rosemont Ave, Frederick, MD 21702 Hours: M, T, F 10-5; W, Th noon-8; Sat 10-4
Cats and Dogs	Adams County SPCA Spay and Neuter Clinic	Low-cost spay/neuter for cats and dogs	For more info: adamscountyspca.org Phone: 717-334-8876 x 28 Email: contactus@adamscountyspca.net Clinic location: 11 Goldenville Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Cats and Dogs	Frederick County Humane Society	Two low-cost spay/neuter programs: • Pet Overpopulation Prevention Program: year-round, cats and dogs, for low-income households • Quick Fix for Cats: twice a year (Feb and Sept), for cats only	For more info: fchs.org Phone: 301-694-8300 Email: info@fchs.org
Cats and Dogs	Promise Animal League	Low-cost spay/neuter for cats and dogs	For more info: apromise.org Phone: 301-465-9473 Email: info@apromise.org Clinic location: 7728 Old National Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713
Dogs	Uniting to Save Animals	Financial assistance for those who cannot afford to have their dog spayed/neutered	For more info or to apply: u2sa.org (click on "request assistance")
Cats	Animal Welfare League of Frederick County	Low-cost spay/neuter of cats/kittens at a participating vet clinic	For more info: awlfc.org Phone: 301-663-5855 Email: info@awlfc.org
Cats	Tip Me Frederick	Support for outdoor/feral cat caretakers with finding low-cost spay/neuter and with trapping and feral colony management	For more info: tipmefrederick.org Phone: 301-845-1061 Email: info@tipmefrederick.org
Cats	Metro Ferals	Low-cost spay/neuter clinics for cats in Montgomery County and Carroll County	For more info: metroferals.org (click on "clinic info") Phone: 443-255-4489

PANCAKE

Cont'd from page 1

to start the paperwork to adopt Pancake that day—and to keep her name!

Adoption & Adjustment

Once the paperwork was approved to adopt Pancake, I went to pick her up at the shelter. Her foster mom met me there and made sure I had some food, litter, and a toy to ease the transition to her new home.

Our first days together were a little rough. She was afraid of every little noise and I think she was missing her foster family and her foster siblings. For two days, Pancake hid and would only come out at night to explore. She finally came out of hiding for good after I put a few treats next to her while she was under my bed. Minutes later, she came out and wanted rubs, started purring, and played with toys! That night, she slept right next to me, smushed against my legs. And she's been sleeping in my bed every night since!



Over the next few months, we settled into a routine. After meals, we always play with toys. When I get home from work, she greets me at the door. I can hear her meowing for me before I even reach the doorknob!

Today

We've been buddies for 6 months now and we're still learning a lot about each other. She turned 1 in September and as she's developed into a full-grown cat, it's been a fun adventure learning her little idiosyncrasies, like which

meows mean "I'm excited," "Whatcha doing?" "I'm hungry," or "I'm mad at you, Momma!" (learned that one when I wouldn't let her eat a string).

Pancake is a funny, lovable, playful kitty and does silly things every day, like when she jumps in the air, ninja style, to catch her toys. And how, out of nowhere, she'll run up behind me, jump against my legs and then run away, like "TAG! You're it!" I also recently discovered that she *really* likes lavender because she'll enthusiastically rub her face on my hands after I use my new moisturizer.

I also learned that she prefers her water bowl to be upstairs in the bedroom. And that she likes her nails to be cut only one paw per day. She loves her cardboard scratchers, so she has five of them throughout the house. Her favorite toys today are the ones with a rattle noise, but she still plays with her feather toys and catnip toys, too.

And to answer the question on everyone's mind, yes, she will eat pancakes (just a teeny-tiny bite), but prefers to lick the butter off the top!